

REMARKS

Claims 2-22 remain in this application. No claims have been amended. No new claim has been added. Claim 1 was previously canceled. Full consideration of the claims as now presented is requested.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation Examiner's courtesies extended to the undersigned during the interview of August 16, 2006 during which the subject matter of claims 2-22 was discussed.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's indication of the novelty and non-obviousness of the subject matter of claims 2-22. Applicants also acknowledge with appreciation Examiner's indication that the subject matter of claims 2-22, regarding "employing the compound as a heat carrier, or heat additive in a heat exchange unit", is allowable.

However, during the recent interview, Examiner objected to the specification as lacking sufficient disclosure as to how to practice the claimed process(es) of "employing the compound as a solvent, or solvent additive in a chemical process" or "employing the compound as an extraction solvent for a material separation" and that the same claimed subject matter was therefore not enabled or supported by the specification. Insofar as it may apply to the present claims, Applicants respectfully disagree.

Examiner previously indicated that amending the independent claims to provide further clarification of the process steps by replacing the "use" claim language with "process" language would place the application in form for allowance. Proposed language was discussed and agreed to. The prior amendment was filed to amend the language as suggested by Examiner.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed subject matter is adequately enabled by and supported by the specification, the state-of-the-art, and the general knowledge of the artisan of ordinary skill in the art at the time of filing. The specification (pg. 1, line 19 to pg. 2, line 11) includes a number of references describing the use of ionic liquids as solvents, solvent additives or extraction solvents. Several of those references are review articles establishing the general state of the art at the time of filing of the instant application. The review articles of Welton and of Wasserscheid (a copy of each of which was submitted September 14, 2006 under separate cover of a supplemental IDS) demonstrate the state-of-the-art as regards the use of ionic liquids as solvents, solvent additives and extraction solvents. As well, Applicants submit that the artisan

of ordinary skill in this field is a highly skilled person knowing full well how to employ an ionic liquid as a solvent, solvent additive or extraction solvent. Therefore, the process of employing the ionic liquid as a solvent, solvent additive or as an extraction solvent for a material separation is supported by the specification as filed.

Applicants submit that the objection to the specification has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

In view of all the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have made a diligent effort to move the claims to allowance by presenting supportive argumentation and references. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in form for allowance and request an early notice of allowance therefor.

Respectfully submitted,



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